RETIRED JUDGE'S PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE AMENDED QUESTION 6

Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years.		
	Conference/CLE Name	Date(s)
(a)	Family Court Judges' Conference	6/1/2011
(b)	2011 SCAJ Annual Convention	8/4/2011
(c)	2011 Annual Judicial Conference	8/17/2011
(d)	Family Law Section	1/20/2012
(e)	2012 Family Court Judges Conference	4/18/2012
(f)	2012 Annual Convention	8/2/2012
(g)	2012 Annual Judicial Conference	8/22/2012
(h)	Mandatory Family Court Judges	12/6/2012
(i)	Family Law Section	1/25/2013
(j)	2013 Family Court Judges Conference	4/17/2013
(k)	2013 Annual Judicial Conference	8/21/2013
(1)	2013 Family Court Bench Bar	12/6/2013
(m)	Family Law Section	1/24/2014
(n)	Family Court Judges Conference	4/23/2014
(o)	2014 Annual Judicial Conference	8/20/2014
(p)	2014 Family Court Bench Bar	12/5/2014
(q)	Family Law Section	1/23/2015
(r)	Family Court Judges Conference	4/16/2015
(s)	Ethics & Lawyer to Lawyer	8/7/2015
(t)	2015 Annual Judicial Conference	8/20/2015
(u)	South Carolina Family Court Bench/Bar	12/4/2015
(v)	16 th Circuit Tips from the Bench: What Your Judges	
	TT7	

YOUR SIGNATURE WILL BE HELD TO CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF ANY PROCEEDIN BEFORE A GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE OR ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING YOUR CREDIT.

1/8/2016

1/22/2016

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT MY ANSWERS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Signature:

(w)

This 27 day of October, 2016

Want you to Know

Family Law Section

6.

JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION Statement to be included in Transcript of Public Hearings

Retired Judge

Full Name: The Honorable Henry T. Woods

Business Address: 11706 W. Heckle Boulevard

Rock Hill, South Carolina 29732

Business Telephone:

803-909-7117

- 1. Have you met the Constitutional or statutory requirements for this position regarding age, residence, and years of practice? Yes
- 2. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses? Yes
- 3. Do you have any plans to return to private practice one day? No
- 4. Are you engaged in any legal activities other than your service as a retired judge, such as acting as an arbitrator or mediator?

Since 2012, I have mediated Family Court cases on a statewide basis.

- 5. Are you involved in any active investments from which you derive additional income that might impair your appearance of impartiality? No
- 6. Do you belong to any organizations that discriminate based on race, religion, or gender? No
- 7. Have you engaged in any partisan political activity since your retirement?
- 8. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge? A Judge must be in control of his or her courtroom. This can be done without being aloof. The most important trait is courtesy to all litigants, especially those appearing pro se. Appropriate humor to alleviate the stressful nature of trials can also be helpful.

- 9. In your position as a retired judge, what methods do you employ to ensure that deadlines for the timely issuance of orders are met? I have been fortunate to have the assistance of the resident judge's administrative staff who check the submitted orders against my notesheets and/or docket sheets. I make a concerted effort to not take matters under advisement and issue instructions at the conclusion of the case unless absolutely necessary. Since I don't hold court all year, this helps limit the need to have orders submitted to a relatively small number.
- 10. Do you feel that it is ever appropriate to be angry with a member of the public, especially with a criminal defendant? Is anger ever appropriate in dealing with attorneys? Litigants who appear in Family Court are going through a stressful period. Young defendants need direction and anger serves no purpose. Attorneys can be corrected without obvious anger, but the judge must control his or her courtroom so that all parties feel the proceedings are fair to all. My experience is that attorneys all recognize real anger in the courtroom.
- 11. How would you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct of a lawyer or fellow judge? If the misconduct did not rise to the level of an ethics violation, I would speak in private with the lawyer in chambers and with a Judge privately where we could have a discussion away from a situation which may cause speculation. I have called Lawyers helping Lawyers twice during the last three years. If the violation was severe and meets the ethical misconduct test, I would write the appropriate committee.
- 12. What is your philosophy on recusal, especially in situations in which lawyer-legislators, former associates, or law clerks are to appear before you? I have no former associates or law clerks who appear before any judge. Because of my age, I have not had a request for a recusal since my retirement in 2010. I would treat each case on its own merits.
- 13. What is your philosophy regarding *ex parte* communciations? Are there circumstances under which you could envision *ex parte* communications being tolerated? Ex parte communications are prohibited. The only allowances are procedural questions and emergency hearing requests, Affidavits and pleadings.
- 14. If you disclosed something that had the appearance of bias, but you believed it would not actually prejudice your impartiality, what deference would you give a party that requested your recusal? Would you grant

such a motion? If the request was based on any aspect of the case, I would give serious consideration to recusal since the appearance of impropriety can be damaging to the Court as actual impropriety.

- 15. What standards have you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality? I accept no gifts unless they come from close personal friends or family. I attend bar functions and the SCAJ convention but because of my limited schedule, rarely go out with any attorneys except friends who never appear in Court.
- 16. In order that we might advise court administration on steps that need to be taken, are there any limitations on your sight, hearing, or mobility that should be addressed by the court administrator? None

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ANSWERS TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

day of (

Sworn to before me this 2

ly, 2016.

(Signature)

(Print name)

Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission Expires: <u>D(a/u//</u>